



1638

13
Grand B

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED

JAN 3 0 2003

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
Box Responses
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed October 22, 2002, Applicants submit the present amendments and remarks, and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the remaining claims.

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Please cancel Claims 1-35 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new Claims 36-58 as follows:

36. (New) A transgenic plant cell transformed by a Signal Transduction Stress-Related Protein (STSRP) coding nucleic acid, wherein expression of the STSRP in the plant cell results in the plant cell's increased tolerance to an environmental stress as compared to a wild type variety of the plant cell, wherein the environmental stress is selected from one or more of the

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on January 22, 2003.

William L. Warren
William L. Warren - Reg. No. 36.714

William L. Warren - Reg. No. 36,714